3. Computerisation of Telephone Billing and phasing out of old telephone exchanges by installing new Electronic Exchanges are expected to further reduce the incidence of complaints.

(e) Due to heavy calls generated by STD PCOs this message is connected on some routes. This message is also connected in case there is any link failure on some routes. But, in general this message is not connected on trunk calls.

(f) The congestion condition is regularly monitored and action is taken to remove such congestion by adding more lines.

Interception of Telephone Messages Permitted by DOT

4236. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the conditions under which interception of telephone message is permitted by the Department of Telecommunications;

(b) whether the Department of Telecommunications preserves the requisition orders issued by the authorised officers under the Indian Telegraph Act; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the telephones of M.Ps were allowed to be intercepted by the Department of Telecommunications and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Sir, interception of telephone messages is permitted by Department of Telecom as per provisions of Section 5(2) of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 on receipt of requisitions from authorised officers of Central/State Governments.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Department only extends technical arrangements to place those numbers under interception which are specifically ordered by the competent authority as authorised under the Indian Telegraph Act.

कानपुर की टेलीफोन सलाहकार समिति में सदस्यों का नाम-निर्देशन

4237. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह :** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कानपुर दूरसंचार के महाप्रबन्धक ने टेलीफोन सलाहकार समिति के लिये विधान परिषद् के एक सदस्य का नाम-निर्देशन किये जाने हेतु विधान परिषद् से अनुरोध किया है ;

(ख) क्या विधान परिषद् सचिवालय ने किसी नाम का प्रस्ताव किया है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सदस्य को टेलीफोन सलाहकार समिति में आमंत्रित किया गया है ; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

संचार मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री पी०वी० रंगैया नायडू) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) जी हां ।

(ग) और (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता क्योंकि तत्कालीन सरकार ने प्रस्तावित नाम का अनुमोदन नहीं किया था, तथापि कानपुर के लिए टेलीफोन सलाहकार समिति का पुनर्गठन 6 जुलाई, 1992 को कर दिया गया है ।

Gradation of FAX Machines

4238. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the policy adopted by his Ministry for gradation of various types of FAX machines and purchase of various types of machines by Government/Semi-Government Departments;

(b) what precautions have been taken by the technical experts to evaluate the quality and the price of such FAX machines;

(c) what is the range of prices of such FAX machines,

(d) whether any comparative study in respect of the technical quality has been made; and

(e) if so, whether it has been circulated to Government/Semi Government Organisations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) DOT gives interface and type approval for FAX machines without indicating their gradation on applications from the manufacturers/users. Any body intending to use the approved machines can purchase the same and obtain operating licence from the department.

(b) The techincal specification of the machines are verified/examined with reference to DOT's standard specification. Price evaluation is done by call of competitive tender wherever DOT wishes to purchase FAX machines for its own use.

(c) The prices are variable depending upon market conditions.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Telephone Exchanges in Uttar Prades

4239. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of old and out dated telephone exchanges in Uttar Pradesh which need replacement and modernisation;

(b) the number of electronic and crossbar exchanges commissioned during the period since the new Government took over;

(c) the number of blocks and villages brought under the telephone net work during the said period; and

(d) whether the telephones in the rural areas are working satisfactorily?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) 270.

(b) 367 electronic exchanges and no Cross-Bar exchanges have been commisssioned during this period.

(c) 3219 Gram Panchayats in U.P. and 24563 in the entire country have been brought under telephone net work.

(d) Yes, Sir. However due to prolonged interruption in power supply in the old type of exchanges at some places, some lines get affected and these are attended to at the earliest.

Amount spent on subsidy

4240. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of subsidy spent on fertilizers, distributed to farmers and also the subsidy amounts on paper, sugar, rice, wheat etc. distributed to certain classes of consumers in the years 1990-91, 1991-92;

(b) whether the prices of unduly increased yarns, dyes and chemicals have been subsidised to help handloom weavers; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The total amount of subsidy spent onn fertilisers, paper etc. during 1990-91 and 1991-92 is as under: